



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Mental Health Clinic Coming to Downtown

The county will soon begin renovations to transform an existing location into a state-of-the-art building to provide homeless and mentally ill people with services in the heart of skid row. The downtown Mental Health Clinic, which serves nearly 300 clients a day, is run by the Department of Mental Health. The department will purchase the older building where the Downtown Mental Health Clinic is currently located on Maple Avenue for \$3,500,000 and then \$1,000,000 for the design and management of the new project.

The services currently provided in the Downtown Mental Health Clinic, will be relocated a block away during the construction. Services in the new facility will include outpatient adult and family treatment of chronically mentally ill patients, including those patients who have substance abuse issues, group and family therapy and crisis resolution services. All services are provided by the Department of Mental Health.

The proposed project will result in an environmentally "green" building that will meet guidelines for the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design's Silver Certification. Construction will begin next spring and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2016. The building also will have recycled construction waste and low-emitting construction materials, and also will be energy efficient -- outfitted with plumbing fixtures that reduce water consumption.

“I am eager to see this new, state of the art facility for our homeless and mentally ill residents,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. “It is essential that we help our residents receive important services that will allow them to stabilize their circumstances and lead productive lives.”

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